ordinary stretcher S may retrofit with removable or flip-up feedthrough bulkheads **27** exhibiting similar design considerations discussed above.

As used herein, "patient" is intended to embrace human, animal, parts/organs thereof, and other life forms requiring air to live.

Given the foregoing, it should be apparent that the specific described embodiments are illustrative and not intended to be limiting. Furthermore, variations and modifications to the invention should now be apparent to a person having ordinary skill in the art. These variations and modifications are intended to fall within the scope and spirit of the invention as defined by the following claims.

We claim:

1. An isolation pod for an individual patient, comprising:

a flexible, transparent air impermeable sheet member defining at least a first and second end, said first end and said second end being spaced apart, said sheet member including a first edge disposed between said first and second ends, said first edge defining a first cooperating member of a sealing element, a second cooperating member of said sealing element where contacting said first and second cooperating members elements provide an airtight sealing element, said first end incorporating a first integrated feedthrough for directionally controlled air flow, said feedthrough defining an integrated unidirectional flow control valve and an opening for permitting air flow in a first selected direction into the pod, said second end incorporating a second integrated feedthrough for directionally controlled air flow, defining an integrated unidirectional flow control valve and an opening for permitting air flow in a said first selected direction out of the pod, each of said feedthroughs having select cross-sectional dimension;

an air blower including a nozzle corresponding to the cross-sectional dimension of said feedthrough, said nozzle being insertable into said feedthroughs for establishing an airtight seal therewith, said air blower having an air port configured to receive and retain an air filter where said air blower selectively communicates filtered air with respect to the interior of the pod, and

a plurality of access gloves each including a hand and forearm portal, said access gloves being integrally formed in said sheet like member to facilitate isolated patient care.

2. The isolation pod of claim **1** where the air blower selectively injects or exhausts air from said pod.

3. The isolation pod of claim **1** where the air blower has an air intake port and a removable filter sealingly mountable to the air intake port to filter air drawn through the air intake port by the blower.

4. The isolation pod of claim **1** where the air filter is a HEPA filter.

5. The isolation pod of claim **1** where the air filter is an NBC filter.

6. The isolation pod of claim **1** where said sheet is clear for easy viewing of an isolated patient contained in the pod.

7. The isolation pod according to claim **1** wherein each integrated unidirectional flow control valve comprise a respective Hemlich valve.

8. The isolation pod of claim **1**, wherein the integrated unidirectional flow control valve, each comprise:

an inlet portion disposed at a first end;

an outlet portion disposed at a second end opposite the first end; and

a tubular element with walls attached to said inlet and outlet portions, wherein said tubular element with walls is open at said inlet portion and collapsed on itself at said outlet portion when air is not flowing through said feedthrough and said tubular element is open at said inlet and outlet portions when air is flowing through said feedthrough.

9. A method of isolating an individual patient from the ambient environment, the method comprising:

placing and sealing a patient in the interior of a sealable pod;

sealably securing a filter on an air blower, wherein the filter is operable to filter particles in the nanometer range from air that is moving through the air blower;

inserting a portion of the air blower through a reinforced, iris type, sealed feedthrough in a surface of the pod, wherein the reinforced, iris type, sealed grommeted feedthrough defines an integrated unidirectional flow control valve for air communication with the interior of the pod; and

unidirectionally communicating air with respect to the interior of the pod.

10. The method of claim **9**, further comprising placing at least one lateral support through a support fixture attached to the sealable pod, wherein the lateral supports each extend from one end of the sealable pod to a second end of the sealable pod.

11. The method of claim **9** further comprising exhausting filtered air from the interior of the pod.

* * * * *